

U.S. Serial No. 09/891,064  
Docket No. 26068-08D

Examiner: P. Nolan  
Art Unit: 1644

### REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 27-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 27-32 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the amendments made above and remarks to follow is respectfully requested.

The Examiner asserts that claims 1-3 and 27-32 read upon any full length occludin molecule that has sequence homology to the recited fragments and that the claimed invention is thus anticipated by the prior art teachings. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1-3 and 27-32 to affirmatively recite that the polypeptide is an isolated and purified human occludin polypeptide, or a fragment or variant thereof, consisting of fewer amino acids than a full-length human occludin polypeptide. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example at page 9, line 14+. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended no longer reads on the full length occludin molecule as the claims affirmatively recite a polypeptide, or a fragment or variant thereof, containing fewer amino acids than a full length human occludin polypeptide and are thus not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 27-32 as being anticipated by the prior art teachings is respectfully requested.

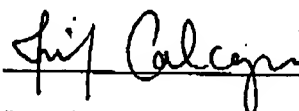
Applicants believe that the foregoing is a complete response to the office action and respectfully request favorable consideration and that claims 1-3 and 27-32, which constitute all of the claims of this application, be passed to allowance.

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If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, he is requested to contact the undersigned at 203-575-2648 for a telephone interview prior to the issuance of the next office action.

Respectfully submitted,



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